

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 16 and 28-35 are pending in the present application. Of these, claims 16 and 28 are independent.

Claims 16 and 28-33 were rejected as being unpatentable over claims 1, 3-4 and 11 of U.S. Patent No. 6,629,953. A terminal disclaimer is submitted herewith to address this objection.

Claims 16, 28-30 and 33 were rejected as being anticipated by Kleshinski (U.S. Patent No. 6,245,012).

Claims 31-32 were rejected as being unpatentable over Kleshinski in view of Fearnott (U.S. Patent No. 5,100,423).

Claims 34-35 were rejected as being unpatentable over Kleshinski.

Discussion

Applicant appreciates the discussion in the Response to Arguments at page 5 of the Office Action where it is stated that "it is noted that the feature upon which applicant relies (i.e., the stent extends over the mesh filter material rather than beneath the mesh material) is not recited in the rejected claims."

Applicant has amended independent claims 16 and 28 to positively recite that the material removing element is positioned "beneath the cage" and is movable along the inner surface of the cage to remove the material extending into the openings of the cage. As such, Applicant submits that claims 16 and 28 distinguish for the reasons provided in Applicants previous response, namely, that Kleshinski extends over the stent rather than "beneath the cage" as claimed.

Dependent claims 29-35 are allowable since they depend from allowable independent claim 28.

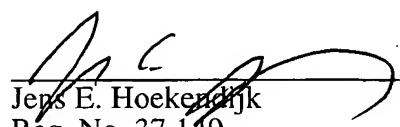
CONCLUSION

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-412-3322.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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